

Prologue

This report is submitted pursuant to the “United Nations Participation Act of 1945” (Public Law 79-264). Section 4 of this law provides, in part, that:

“The President shall from time to time as occasion may require, but not less than once each year, make reports to the Congress of the activities of the United Nations and of the participation of the United States therein.”

In July 2003, the President delegated to the Secretary of State the authority to transmit this report to Congress.

The *United States Participation in the United Nations* report is a survey of the activities of the U.S. Government in the United Nations and its agencies, as well as the activities of the United Nations and those agencies themselves. More specifically, this report seeks to assess UN achievements during 2005, the effectiveness of U.S. participation in the United Nations, and whether U.S. goals were advanced or thwarted.

The United States is committed to the founding ideals of the United Nations. Addressing the UN General Assembly in 2003, President Bush said,

“The founding documents of the United Nations and the founding documents of America stand in the same tradition. Both assert that human beings should never be reduced to objects of power or commerce, because their dignity is inherent. Both recognize a moral law that stands above men and nations, which must be defended and enforced by men and nations. And both point the way to peace, the peace that comes when all are free.”

The United States believes that the United Nations should be a place where diverse countries and cultures of the world work together for freedom, democracy, peace, human rights, and prosperity for all people. In 2005, the United Nations continued to face many challenges in living up to those founding principles.

This report treats thematically UN activities that most significantly affected U.S. interests. It is divided into six chapters:

Part 1, on **Political and Security Affairs**, focuses on activities undertaken by the United Nations to maintain international peace and security. Under the UN Charter, the primary responsibility for this task lies in the Security Council, which is empowered to take various actions to maintain international peace and security through the adoption of resolutions authorizing peacekeeping and special political missions. The activities of the UN General Assembly and other UN bodies are also described. This chapter also covers security-related thematic issues, such as disarmament and international terrorism.

The United States worked throughout the year for strong action by the Security Council in Sudan. A series of three Security Council resolutions in March 2005 underscored international concerns regarding Sudan's continuing conflicts, establishing the UN Mission in Sudan, calling for resumption of peace talks, strengthening sanctions on the Sudanese Government imposed in 2004, and referring the situation in Darfur to the International Criminal Court (the United States abstained on the last resolution).

The Security Council also closely followed progress on implementation of Resolution 1559 (2004). In April 2005, Syrian military forces withdrew from Lebanon, but no progress was made regarding the disbanding and disarmament of the militias or the extension of Lebanese Government control over its entire territory.

After the February terrorist bombing in Beirut that killed former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and 22 others, the Security Council created the UN International Independent Investigation Commission to assist the Lebanese Government in investigating the attack. The Security Council demanded Syrian cooperation with the Commission and requested the Commission report on cooperation by Syrian authorities so that the Council, if necessary, could consider further action. The Security Council extended the Commission's mandate into 2006.

Part 2, on **Economic and Social Affairs**, assesses the work of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and various subsidiary bodies and commissions on issues that involve economic development, the status of women, humanitarian aid, and crime prevention and control.

Meeting in its final, full substantive session, the Commission on Human Rights adopted resolutions condemning the situation of human rights in Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Sudan. The General Assembly's Third Committee adopted a resolution condemning the human rights situation in Iran, but blocked a resolution on Sudan through a no-action motion.

Part 3, on **Specialized Agencies**, describes the activities of a host of agencies, from the Food and Agriculture Organization to the World Health Organization, and assesses how they served U.S. interests.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) played a crucial role in 2005 in focusing the world's attention on Iran's nuclear program and its failure to comply with its safeguards obligations and other nonproliferation commitments. The IAEA Board of Governors called on Iran to suspend all of its enrichment-related and reprocessing activities and to cooperate fully with the IAEA in resolving outstanding questions about Iran's nuclear program. In August, Iran rejected a proposal by France, Germany, and the United Kingdom; unilaterally broke its commitments under the Paris Agreement; and resumed uranium conversion activities. In September, the IAEA Board of Governors found Iran to be in noncompliance with its safeguards obligations and referred the Iran dossier to the Security Council.

Part 4, on **Legal Developments**, highlights the work of the judicial bodies, such as the War Crimes Tribunals in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, and developments on issues such as cloning.

Part 5, on **Reform of the UN System**, describes progress on reform of the United Nations, and of the UN's main bodies.

In March 2005 the Secretary-General introduced "In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights For All." The report focused on organizational reforms and reforms of UN work on development, security, and democracy. Negotiations were held during the spring and summer on a package of reforms to be included in an Outcome Document, which was agreed to by more than 170 heads of state and government during the September UN Summit.

Secretary Rice noted in her statement to the 60th General Assembly that the Outcome Document "expresses a global consensus that UN reform is imperative." The United States was pleased that member states agreed in the Outcome Document to reform the management of the United Nations, create a Human Rights Council, denounce terrorism in all its forms, advance the cause of development, and establish a Peacebuilding Commission. However, the United States was disappointed that provisions on a Human Rights Council did not ensure an effective human rights body, and that the Outcome Document did not address nonproliferation.

Part 6, on **Administration and Budget**, provides an overview of the current UN financial situation and resource management issues. The General Assembly adopted a 2006–2007 biennial budget of \$3.8 billion at the end of 2005. At the urging of the United States and other donors, it included a \$950 million spending cap (equal to approximately six months of expenses) intended to maintain momentum behind management reforms and review of program mandates.

Information on funding of UN activities and UN bodies, as well as U.S. assessments or contributions, are provided throughout this report. Unless otherwise noted, figures provided are for calendar year 2005.

Finally, the report's appendices include the Secretary of State's 2005 speech to the UN General Assembly. Appendices also include information about the principal organs of the United Nations and their membership and leadership in 2005, a list of U.S. representatives to the United Nations in 2005, and other reference information.

Questions about this report may be directed to the Bureau of International Organization Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

